

“Stand your ground” history and effects

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Defining “stand your ground”

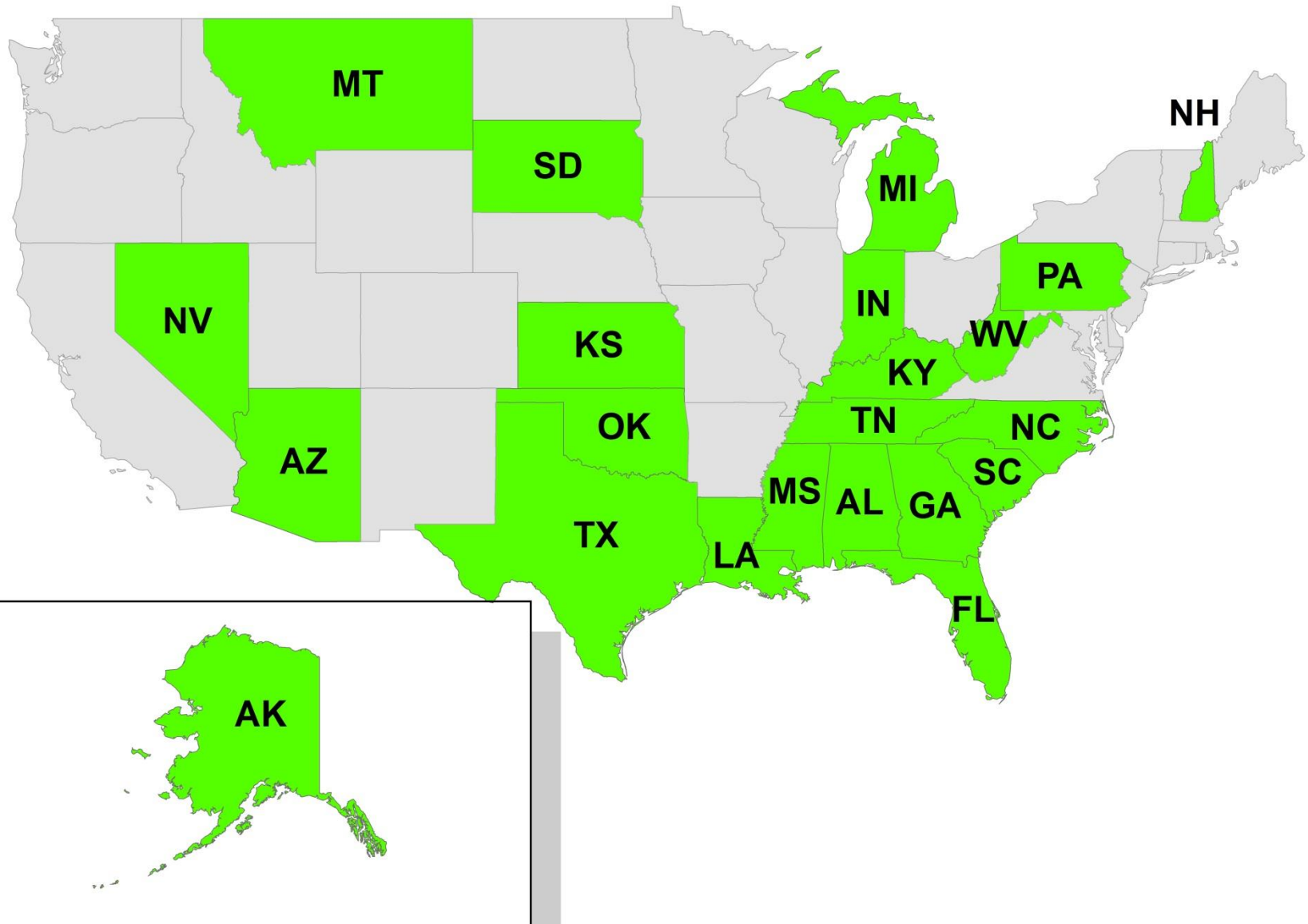
Extending the “castle doctrine” outside the home, requiring no duty to retreat

Defining “stand your ground”

In some – but not all! – states, includes...

- **No duty to retreat in defense of property**
- **Presumption that use of deadly force was lawful**
- **Immunity from arrest and prosecution**
- **Immunity from civil suits**

States with “stand your ground”



Why “stand your ground”

SYG was championed by the National Rifle Association and the American Legislative Exchange Council

Legitimate concerns about prosecution of persons defending themselves and family

***Not* in reaction to a national crime increase**



Effects of “stand your ground”

Investigative reporting often suggests an increase in justifiable homicides, some of which are questionable

Few academic studies to rely on



Academic research: McClellan and Terken (2012)

Effect of SYG on firearms injuries. Found:

- **Increased injury and homicide**
- **Both justified and non-justified homicide increased**

- **Increase in homicides was driven by white males, with 28-33 additional WM killed each month after SYG**



Academic research: Cheng and Hoekstra (2012)

No deterrent effect of SYG on burglary, robbery, aggravated assault.

SYG states saw a relative increase of 8-10% in homicide after adoption of SYG

After implementation of SYG, increase in both justified and non-justified homicide

Academic research: Cheng and Hoekstra (2012)

“Lowering the expected cost of lethal force causes there to be more of it.”



Further information

McClellan, C.B. and Teken, E. (2012). Stand your ground laws, homicides, and injuries. Working Paper 18187, National Bureau of Economic Research. Available: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w18187>

Cheng, C. and Hoekstra, M (forthcoming). Does strengthening self-defense law deter crime or escalate violence? Evidence from expansions to castle doctrine. *Journal of Human Resources*. Available: http://econweb.tamu.edu/mhoekstra/castle_doctrine.pdf

National Urban League, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, and VoteVets.org (2013). Shoot first: Stand your ground laws and their effect on violent crime and the criminal justice system. Available: https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/images/ShootFirst_v4.pdf

